

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re 1.53(b) Continuation Application of)
U.S. Application No. 09/891,663)
Inventors: Todd A. HALL et al.) Prior Group Art Unit: 3731
Filed: Herewith) Prior Examiner: D. Davis
For: STENT DELIVERY SYSTEM AND)
METHOD OF USE)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application
as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-68, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims
69-82, as follows:

69. (New) A method for supplementing a flow of blood to a portion of the
cardiovascular system of a patient, the method comprising:

(a) inserting a catheter device into the vasculature of the patient and advancing
the catheter device to a first location within a first coronary vessel within the
cardiovascular system;

(b) guiding the catheter device through an interstitial passageway formed between the first location and a second location within a second coronary vessel within the cardiovascular system; the second location within the second coronary vessel being distal to an obstruction in the second coronary vessel; and

(c) forming a blood flow path from a heart chamber directly to the second coronary vessel.

70. (New) The method according to claim 69, wherein forming a blood flow path from the heart chamber directly to the second coronary vessel includes placing a conduit in a heart wall between the heart chamber and the second coronary vessel.

71. (New) The method according to claim 69, wherein the interstitial passageway is formed through a wall of the first coronary vessel and through a wall of the second coronary vessel between the first and second locations.

72. (New) The method according to claim 69, wherein the second coronary vessel is a coronary artery.

73. (New) The method according to claim 72, wherein the coronary artery is a left anterior descending coronary artery.

74. (New) The method according to claim 72, wherein the first coronary vessel is a coronary vein proximate to the coronary artery.

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75. (New) The method according to claim 74, wherein the first coronary vessel is a great cardiac vein.

76. (New) A method for supplementing a flow of blood to a portion of the cardiovascular system of a patient, the method comprising:

(a) inserting a catheter device into the vasculature of the patient and advancing the catheter device to a first location within a first coronary vessel within the cardiovascular system;

(b) guiding the catheter device through a first interstitial passageway formed between the first location and a second location within a second coronary vessel within the cardiovascular system;

(c) advancing the catheter device to a third location within the second coronary vessel;

(d) guiding the catheter device through a second interstitial passageway formed between the third location and a fourth location within the first coronary vessel; the fourth location being distal to an obstruction in the first coronary vessel; and

(e) forming a blood flow path from a heart chamber directly to the first coronary vessel.

77. (New) The method according to claim 76, wherein forming a blood flow path from the heart chamber directly to the first coronary vessel includes placing a conduit in a heart wall between the heart chamber and the first coronary vessel.

78. (New) The method according to claim 76, wherein:

(a) the first interstitial passageway is formed through a wall of the first coronary vessel and through a wall of the second coronary vessel between the first and second locations; and

(b) the second interstitial passageway is formed through a wall of the second coronary vessel and through a wall of the first coronary vessel between the third and fourth locations.

79. (New) The method according to claim 76, wherein the first coronary vessel is a coronary artery.

80. (New) The method according to claim 79, wherein the coronary artery is a left anterior descending coronary artery.

81. (New) The method according to claim 79, wherein the second coronary vessel is a coronary vein proximate to the coronary artery.

82. (New) The method according to claim 81, wherein the first coronary vessel is a great cardiac vein.

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